



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

Financial Aid | College & University Approvals | Career School Licensing | Veterans State Approvals | Closed School Transcripts | Research/Studies

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2010

A regular meeting of the Postsecondary Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court, Concord, New Hampshire at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2010. The following members were present:

Father Jonathan DeFelice, Chair
John Curran
Brian Dobson
Robert Jamaal Downey
William Farrell
James Fitzgerald
Helen Giles-Gee
John Hutson
Todd Leach
David Mahoney
Michele Perkins
Eli Rivera
Roger Williams

The following persons also attended: Graziella Saccon, President, Lebanon College; Tom Rocco, Educational Consultant, representing Southern New Hampshire University; James Craiglow, President Emeritus/Chancellor Emeritus, Antioch University New England, Rob Fried, Executive Director, and Robert McCarthy, Chair, Board of Directors, representing Upper Valley Educators Institute; Kathryn Dodge, Executive Director, Patricia Edes, Assistant to the Executive Director, Cynthia Capodestria, Student Financial Assistance Coordinator, Amy Slattery, Coordinator, Grants, Research & Studies, Lynn West, Administrator, Career School Licensing; Larry Elbroch, Administrator, Clifton Burdette, Associate, Veterans State Approvals; Catherine Yeager, Transcriptionist

- 1) Chair DeFelice called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, including new commissioners, Brian Dobson, Student at Great Bay Community College, and Robert Jamaal Downey, Student at New England College. He also wished farewell to John Hutson, President, University of New Hampshire School of Law, and thanked him for his service. Chair DeFelice then asked those present to introduce themselves. Graziella Saccon, President at Lebanon College, introduced herself and thanked the Commission for its diligent work with Lebanon College.

- 2) On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the members voted to accept the minutes of September 16, 2010. The motion passed without dissent.
- 3) On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the members voted to accept the minutes of the Emergency Meeting of October 27, 2010 regarding updates on the College Access Challenge Grant activity and revisions in the letter to Governor Lynch requesting an exemption from budget cuts. The motion passed without dissent.
- 4) On the motion of Mr. Curran, seconded by Mr. Williams, the members voted to include information concerning progress reports on unlicensed career schools in the Executive Director Report versus an agenda item. If there is specific action to be taken or legal action is required, members would be informed via an appropriate agenda item. The motion passed without dissent.
- 5) Tom Rocco, Chair, presented a request from Southern New Hampshire University to offer a Master of Arts in Teaching in English and to Transition the Existing Doctor of Business Administration in International Business to a Doctor of Philosophy in International Business. Nader Asgary, Professor of Management and Economics, Bentley University, Karen Beyard, Professor of Educational Leadership, Central Connecticut State University, Laura Snyder, Director of Graduate Study for the M.A.T. Program and Director of English Education, Brown University, and Executive Director Dodge participated on the Evaluation Team and reviewed the request.

The Evaluation Committee found Southern New Hampshire University in compliance with all the Commission standards and recommended that the Commission vote to approve the request until June 30, 2015, with the condition that copies of all correspondence to/from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (next visit scheduled for 2011) and the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (next visit scheduled for 2014) be forwarded to the Commission. Additionally, the Commission would be invited to attend any site visit(s). Participation as an observer at site visit(s) would be determined upon receipt and review of correspondence.

Any substantive changes must be reported to the Commission.

Per Pos 1006.01 of the NH Code of Administrative Rules, "Annually on or before December 31, every in-state institution offering courses, programs or degrees within the State of New Hampshire shall file with the commission: (a) A report listing the names of the programs, degrees and certificates the institution offered as of September 1 of the year in which the report is filed and new curricular plans for the upcoming year; (b) Annual reports submitted to institutional accrediting agencies; and (c) If applicable, audited financial statements for 3 years following notification from the U.S. Department of Education regarding financial responsibility ratios below the expected threshold."

Authority would expire at the end of any calendar year for which required report(s) are not received

Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Ms. Giles-Gee, to accept the Evaluation Committee recommendations. Discussion followed. Ms. Giles-Gee moved, seconded by Mr. Hutson, to amend the motion to include, “In the Annual Report, the institution must provide updates on team suggestions related to sufficient faculty and international experiences for students in the Doctor of Philosophy in International Business, and communication between students and the department regarding access to library resources.” The motion passed without dissent.

- 6) Jim Craiglow, Chair, presented a request from the Upper Valley Educators Institute for new degree-granting authority for the Master of Arts in Teaching and the Master of Education. Melinda Treadwell, Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies, Keene State College, and Executive Director Dodge also participated on the Evaluation Team and reviewed the request. The Evaluation Committee found the Upper Valley Educators Institute in compliance with all the Commission standards and recommended that the Commission vote to approve the request during the period June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2013. The Commission would conduct an interim progress visit to the UVEI to evaluate progress on Commission standards.

The UVEI would provide updates to the Commission’s executive director on its efforts to secure legislative approval and its progress with accreditation, including copies of reports to/from accrediting bodies. The Commission would also be invited to attend all site visits. The UVEI would provide annual updates, along with audited financial statements, on or before December 31 of each year.

Authority would expire at the end of any calendar year for which required report(s) are not received.

Discussion followed. Mr. Farrell moved, seconded by Ms. Giles-Gee, to accept the Evaluation Committee recommendations with an amendment to include that the Upper Valley Educators Institute confirm the hiring of a second full-time doctoral level (Ph.D. or Ed.D.) faculty member.

- 7) Chair DeFelice presented the Workforce Incentive Program – Shortage Areas for 2011-2012. Ms. Giles-Gee moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, to designate shortage areas for the 2011-2012 academic year as follows:

Nursing:	LPN through graduate level	
Teaching:	Special Education	Foreign Languages (Classical & Modern)
	Mathematics	Physics
	Chemistry	Physical Science
	General Science	

The motion passed without dissent.

- 8) Executive Director Dodge presented highlights of the Executive Director Report. These included:
- a. Commissioners were thanked for making time to sign the letter to Governor Lynch requesting monies not be cut. In addition to the maintenance budget, a general 5% cut (which was reviewed at our September 2009 meeting) and a separate 5% cut that includes dedicated funds - funds that are generated by fees from career schools, transcript requests and college and university approvals was submitted. It was made clear that this is in opposition to current legislation which states that any fees generated are to be used for the purposes of the function. Mr. Curran moved, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to retain dollars for the Scholarships for Orphans of Veterans in any proposed budget. The motion passed without dissent. Mr. Mahoney moved, seconded by Mr. Curran, to take money from need-based aid to make up the difference. The motions passed without dissent, with Mr. Hutson abstaining.
 - b. The Legislative Budget Assistant, Audit Division's Financial Audit Report observed that the Commission is critically understaffed in the business management function; therefore, two reclassifications were submitted to personnel. The first moves Larry Elbroch from Veterans Approvals to Business Management for the office; Clif Burdette would apply for Larry's job, as an internal candidate. The Division of Personnel approved this request and the next step is to secure approval from Governor and Council. The second reclassification clarifies Patricia Edes' responsibilities. Patricia has not had full responsibility for the budget for a few years and the proposed reclassification more accurately describes her current responsibilities.
 - c. The Commission's attorney, Anthony Blenkinsop, Esq., reviewed the recently released federal legislation regarding state authorization. It was agreed that NH currently meets requirements for legal authorization of postsecondary education institutions and the requirements for an appropriate process to renew and appropriately act on complaints, including enforcement of applicable State laws. Developments, especially with regard to retaining the US peer review system are being closely monitored, particularly through the State Higher Education Executive Officers professional association.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.